

A

# REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, June 3. 1710.

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I Confess I cannot but regret the Iniquity of the Times; and 'tis a wonder to me, that we do not fall into the utmost Confusion — What an Ocean of Discord, and a troubled Sea of Disorder, have we before us! Where shall a Man begin, that wou'd Attempt to set us to Rights, or that would Essay to Regulate any of our Mistakes? — He Eateth into a vast Wood, when he goes about it; and tho' he knows where he goes in, the wisest Man in the World cannot tell him where he shall come out: For my Part, I have been long Swimming in the *Dead Sea* of your Politick Disorders; and 'tis the Wonder of some, as well as the Sorrow of others, that I have not been Devour'd

there — Indeed I have been almost Smother'd with the Smoak, and Poison'd with the Stench of the *black Lake*, the Sink of the Nation's Feuds; and yet I have not found it possible to leave off, and come a-shoar. However, I may for the present lye still a little, and look back upon what's past.

Let me now Sum up a few of the general Heads, which shew themselves in our unsettled Posture, and leave you to judge for your selves; and he that can Foretell us any good Issue from such preposterous Appearances, let him speak. *As for me, I can say nothing, nor see nothing but Confusion, Confusion, Confusion* — The *State, the Church, the Trade, the War*, all have their

Loads, their Encumbrances, all their Disorders ; And where shall we begin ?

Here we have a QUEEN Reigning with Justice and Mercy, and Prescribing her Self by the Laws ; yet Murmur'd daily at by her Subjects, because she refuses to be a Tyrant, and does not gratifie them with the Liberty of being Slaves.

A Queen posseſ'd of the Crown by the best Title in the World, yet eagerly Address'd by those that pretend to be Her best Subjects, to Abandon the Title She Claims by, and own her Self an Usurper.

A CHURCH, Acknowledg'd by those that Difſent from her, Abandon'd and Betray'd by those that swear to her, and undertaken to be Defended by those that Disown her, and Declare her Schismatick and Apostate.

An ENEMY Pray'd for by those that Abjure him, Fought against by those that pray for him, and vigorously Oppos'd by those that refuse to swear against him.

SUBJECTS Loyal to Government, yet Refiling Tyranny, Refiling just Government, and Obedient to Tyranny — — Passively Treacherous to their Old Sovereign, and Treacherously Passive to their New.

SUBJECTS professing Non-Resistance, yet Obediently Submitting to Refill the Laws, Insulting the Queen to Maintain Passive Obedience, and Raising Rabbles and Tumults to defend Non-Resistance.

Endless Intollerable Contradictions !

Come we next to TRADE, What Monstrous Contradictions do we find every where ? COMMERCE is turn'd into Universal Pyracy — Trade is little else, than the Extreme of Picking Pockets — — Juggle, Legerdemain, Deception Vizus and most exquisite Fraud, seems to be the Essentials of general Negoce : To Circumvent one another, to Out-wit, Anglice Deceive, to Sharp, Cozen and Trick — —

These are all become Vertues in Business, and qualifie a Man to be fit for the Exchange — — Alley, or the Shop.

In Companies, East-India, or any kind, How did they heave at one another for the Privilege of exclusive Fraud, Trade I should say ? Nor were they ever content, nor the King himſelf could keep the Peace among them, till the Prey was divided, and both Companies in their separate Capacity of Devouring it, United in the Craft, and got themselves incorporated into one general Band of exclusive Trade-destroyers.

Do we Trade to the Golden Shoars of Africk, where they Barter Glass for Gold, and Babbles for the Souls of Men, Here you have them falling out, at whose Face is blackest, and calling Knave so loud, that all the World hears it, and too many believe it ; and without asking whether 'tis on this side or that, gravely conclude 'tis true on both sides.

Here Crowds are importunate to have Trade prohibited, that they may posſeſ the whole, get a Baſtard of their own, and so come in for a ſhare of the Inheritance — — Here Creditors forbear to Unite, tho' it gives them a Property in the Trade, and ſecures their Debt — — purely to Testifie, either that their Trading ſences fail them, or that they are Truer to their Confederacy than to their Interest.

Even our Colliers are falling out among themselves, and Fighting with one another, that they may not fail to do themselves a little Mischief, and the Nation a great deal.

And here I am importunately called off from going on with this Medley of Confusion, to keep the Peace among the black Ones an Billingsgate — — Nor let the Gentlemen quarrel at the Word — — Some are Black by Employment, and some blacken their Characters, tho' they Wash their Faces — — Let us ſtop then a little, and ſee what is the Matter among theſe sort of People — — The Out-cry is great on both ſides, you Rogue and you Rogue is the Language — — A Cry very ſeldom rais'd, but where

where a stander-by may join with either side, and cry both Rogues, tho' I do not say it is so here.

Here is Confederacy on one side, and Combination on the other—and all full of ~~Contradiction~~. I profess not to see thy' it so clearly as I believe I shall, if they go on to Discover one another a little farther.—But it ~~remembers~~ reminds me of a *Maxim of my own*, raised from general Observation upon the Monopolizing, Encroaching, Invading part of the Trading World, and which I hardly ever found false. viz.

*Those that run down the Prices of Goods on a general Head of Trade, do it with a prospect of Selling Dear, and those that keep up the Prices have the like view of Buying Cheap.*

I am perswaded on the farther Examining this Dispute about Coals, I shall find my Maxim hold good ; and tho' at present I shall not undertake to say which side is right, or which side is wrong, yet I cannot but suspect those People most, who I hear make such a mighty Plea to the City of bringing down the Price of Coals.— Since certainly to make the Colliers sell them Cheaper than they can bring them, *tho' it may tickle us with a low Price just now*, must, when it has ruin'd the Masters and Owners, make all good again out of the Pockets of the Buyers.—*Let the City keep their Eye upon that.*

Again, it seems matter of wonder to me, That these People have brought Coals to be Cheaper after an Additional Tax of . . . . per Chaldron, than they were before—and yet pretend the *Masters can live*—The Question is plain, If they can live now—Why did they not get Estates before—I doubt we must be forc'd to bring this Case before a Parliament, wherein I perswade my self, two or three things will be necessary ; and which if done, would end all the Dispute.

3. That during the Continuance of these heavy Taxes upon Coals, the Measure and Prices of Coals shall be adjusted and stated at New-castle—For there have been Encroach-

ments and Invasions there, as well as at London ; and, perhaps, some Newcastle Knavery, may prove the Original of some London Knavery : Let the *Fitters* expect to hear very plainly of it, when it comes to their turn to be spoken to.

2. That as the Assiz: and Price of Bread is settled by Parliament, in proportion to the Rising or Falling of the Prices of Corn, so the Rates of Coals should be affix'd in the Port of London, in due Proportions to the Circumstances of the Navigation—Such as *War or Peace*, Price of *Wages*, Season of the Year, &c. and proper Magistrates, even much more proper than the L... M...r of London, or his great Horse either, may be appointed to do this.
3. That, as in the Case of Provisions, we have Laws in some part of *Britain*, that Butchers shall not be *Graziers*, a Practice that once went a great way to Ruin us all ; so we might have a Law, that Lightermen, Fitters, Meters, and such like little depending Fellows, who Feed upon the Life-blood of the Colliery, should not be permitted to turn *Dealers* in, much less *Engrossers* of Coals ; and should not pretend to *Buy* or *Sell*, which really is none of their Business.
4. That Coal-Jobbing be forbidden by Law—an Evil growing upon us at *Billingsgate*, like Stock-Jobbing on the *Exchange*, and will in its Degree, be as *Mischievous* if not timely prevented.

It is necessary indeed, that I should explain my self upon these Heads ; and I shall not fail to do it ; and perhaps may by this Inquiry, discover how the City of London has paid many a Coal-Tax they never heard of, and many more than ever the Parliament laid on—and which, if they please to Buy my L. M...r a pair of Trade-Spectacles, they need never pay any more.

I am told there is a great Noise of Combinations and corrupt Practices in the Coal-Trade.

Trade. Whether it may be a Strife on both sides — and so as when Knaves fall out, &c. — We may find somethings to Correct on either Hand. Or, whether it is, that one side has Oppress'd the other, and they Rebel against that Oppression, and will not suffer themselves to be Fool-ridden any longer — Be it which way it will, you shall hear more of it in my next; when, if I should lay the Saddle on the right Horse, and be very plain with some People, who, if I don't want Spectacles too, want to be told some unwelcome Truths, they must excuse me — For when I am talking of a SPADE, I cannot for my Life, or with all my long study in Words, find any other Name for it than a SPADE — According to an old City-Poet,

*Tho' they're call'd Misses which some Fools  
Adore,  
I cannot Gild their Crimes; a Whore's a  
Whore.*

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#### AD V E R T I S E M E N T S.

This Day is Publish'd,  
**T**HE WOLF strip'd of his Shepherd's Cloathing. A Poem. Dedicated to Dr. Sacheverell. Pr. 1 d. The Resurrection of Christ rescu'd from the Slanders of the Jewish Sinhedrim, the Soldiers, and the Watch. A Sermon Preach'd on Easter Sunday, at St. Mary's in Oxon, on this Text, *His Disciples came by Night and stol him away while we sleep.* By R. Jones, D. D. Both Sold by J. Baker at the Black Boy in Pater-Noster-Row, where may be had an intercepted Letter from Perlyn to Dr. Fatio. Pr. 1 d.

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**W**HEREAS Many Persons, that for some Months or perhaps Years past had the Misfortune to be Clapt, have, still remaining upon them, a small Running or Gleet, altho' the Malignity and other Symptoms of the Venereal Distemper are perfectly overcome and eradicated; which Running or Gleet, is very dangerous, and if not perfectly cur'd, certainly ruins the Constitution, and proves of dreadful Consequence the unhappy Patients; and that it is very difficult to be entirely cur'd, and seldom is taken off by many of the Practitioners in the Venereal Disease, (tho' Ingenious Men) the most eminent Physicians do allow. This is therefore to give Notice, that Oae of great Practice, and very large Experience, having some Years since found out admirable Medicines, that in a few Days always did, and assur'dly ever will, without Delay, safely take off all manner of Running, or Gleet, tho' of many Years standing, so as never to return again; has now for the Sake of those unfortunate Persons, that are fatigued with that troublesome and mischievous Disorder, and have spent perhaps many Pounds to get cur'd, but in vain, appointed the above-mention'd Excellent Medicines, establish'd upon Reason, and always successful Experience, and which will absolutely compleat the Cure, so as not to break out again; to be Sold only at Mr. Silkeld's, at the Blue Post, next Door to Mr. Tonkin's Printing House, in Earls Court in Bow-Street, near Covent-Garden — At a Guinea the Parcel, seal'd up with a little Book of Directions; wherein are also set down plain Rules, whereby any Person may certainly know, whether the Verom or Malignancy of the *True Venere*, be entirely eradicated or not.

Printed for the Author; and sold by John Baker, at the Black Boy in Pater-Noster-Row. 1710.